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United States Department of Agriculture

> Soil Conservation Service

Bozeman, Montana



# Montana Water Supply Outlook

June 1, 1987



### Foreword

### How Forecasts Are Made

Most of the annual streamflow in the Western United States originates as snowfall. This snowfall accumulates high in the mountains during winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Predictions are based on careful measurements of snow water equivalent at selected index points. Precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and antecedent streamflow data are viewed in conjunction with snowpack data to prepare runoff forecasts. This report presents a comprehensive picture of water supply outlook conditions for areas dependent upon surface runoff. It includes selected streamflow forecasts, summarized snowpack and precipitation data, reservoir storage data and narratives describing current conditions.

Streamflow forecasts are cooperatively generated by Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service hydrologists. Forecasts become more accurate as more data affecting runoff becomes known. For this reason, forecasts are issued that reflect three future precipitation conditions — Below Normal, Average, and Above Normal. These forecasts are termed reasonable minimum, most probable, and reasonable maximum. Actual streamflow can be expected to fall between the lower and upper forecast values eight out of ten years.

Snowpack data are obtained by using a combination of manual and automated measurement methods. Manual readings of snow depth and water equivalent are taken at locations called snow courses on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule during the winter. In addition, snow water equivalent, precipitation, temperature, and other parameters are monitored on a daily basis and transmitted via radio telemetry to central data collection facilities. Both monthly and daily data are used to project snowmelt runoff.

#### For More Information

Copies of Monthly Water Supply Outlook Reports and other reports may be obtained from the states listed below. Because of the limited space, snow survey measurements are not published in monthly reports. An annual snow survey data summary is published by the Soil Conservation Service for each of the western states. Historical snow survey data may be obtained at those same offices.

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	201 East 9th Ave., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501-3687
Arizona	201 East Indianola, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Colorado	2490 West 26th Ave., Denver, CO 80211
New Mexico	517 Gold Ave. S.W., Room 3301, Albuquerque, NM 97102
Idaho	304 North 8th Street, Room 345, Boise, ID 83702
Montana	10 East Babcock, Room 443, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59715
Nevada	1201 Terminal Way, Room 219, Reno, NV 89502
Oregon	1220 Southwest 3rd Ave., Room 1640, Portland, OR 97208
Utah	4402 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84147
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, WA 99201
Wyoming	Federal Building, 100 East "B" Street, Casper, WY 82601

In addition to state reports, a Water Supply Outlook for the Western United States is published by the Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service monthly, January through May. Reports may be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service, West National Technical Center, 511 Northwest Broadway, Room 547, Portland, OR 97209.

#### Published by other agencies:

Water Supply Outlook Reports prepared by other agencies include: California — Snow Survey Branch, California Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802; British Columbia — The Ministry of Environment, Water Investigations Branch, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X5; Yukon Territory — Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Northern Operations Branch, 200 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A 3V1; Alberta, Environment Technical Services Division, 9820 106th St., Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6.

# Montana Water Supply Outlook

and

Federal - State - Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

### Issued by

Wilson Scaling Chief Soil Conservation Service Washington, D.C.

### Released by

Glen H. Loomis State Conservationist Soil Conservation Service Bozeman, Montana

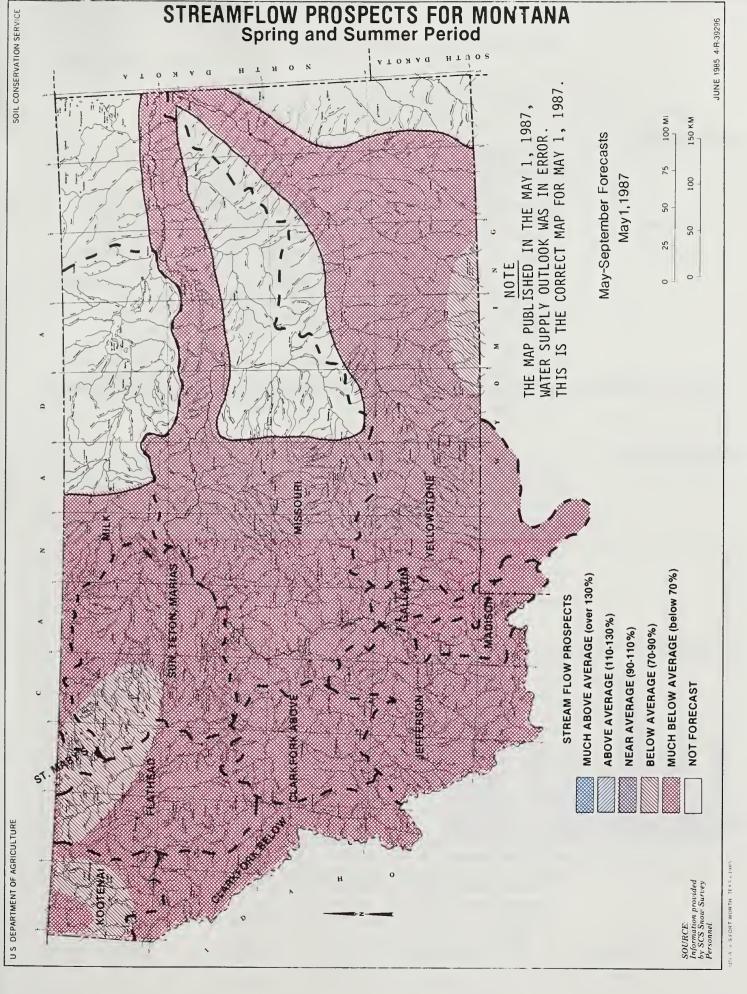
### Prepared by

Phillip E. Farnes Snow Survey Supervisor Soil Conservation Service 10 E. Babcock Bozeman, Montana 59715

Programs and assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture are available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, or national origin.

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### GENERAL OUTLOOK

### SUMMARY:

Warm temperatures with little rain persisted through the first half of May, depleting the already diminished snowpack. Irrigation demands were very high for this early date. The last half of May saw a return to more normal weather. Cooler temperatures and heavy precipitation was reported over most of Montana. The northwestern corner did not receive as much and finished the month with below average totals. Most of the state reported totals of average or above average moisture for the month. For the majority of the southern drainages, this was the first month since November having near or above average mountain precipitation. Streamflows are expected to be near the volumes forecasted on May 1 over most of the state. Irrigation water shortages are expected to become widespread by late June and continue through most of the summer.

### SNOWPACK:

The only significant snowpack remaining at measuring sites exists in the Kootenai, Flathead and St. Mary River drainages. Here the snowpacks are about 20 to 30 percent of average. All other basins have very little snowpack remaining. Most have less than 5 percent of the normal June 1 snowpack. During recent storms, some snowfall occurred at higher elevations but did not provide much of an increase to the snowpack.

### FRECIPITATION:

Mountain precipitation was near or above average in all areas except northwest Montana. Heaviest amounts were east of the Divide. Most of the month's moisture fell in the last two weeks. In most basins, this was the first month since November where the precipitation amounts were near or above average. The moisture that fell improved soil moisture levels and reduced irrigation demands.

#### RESERVOIRS:

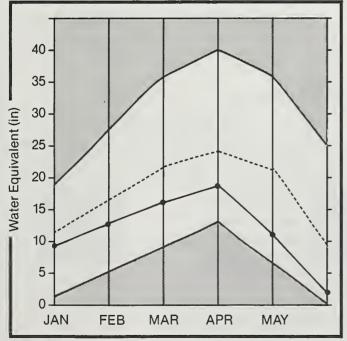
Early irrigation demands resulted in some use of stored water in early May. Rainfall along with reduced irrigation demand increased inflows and slowed reservoir releases in late May. Most reservoirs are full or nearly full. However, the few that are not full may not fill this year.

#### STREAMFLOW:

May runoff was near average in the Flathead, Kootenai, St. Mary and Upper Yellowstone River tributaries. All other areas had below average runoff due in part to lack of snowmelt contribution. Also, irrigation withdrawls were much greater than normal for May. Some streams had increased runoff with the rain but all areas except for the Yellowstone had peak flow of the season in early May during the snowmelt peak. Streamflows are expected to be about the same as forecasted on May 1 for most drainages. In the northwest area runoff could be a little less while the southwest, south central and central areas may have a little more runoff than previously forecast. Most areas are still expected to have shortages of irrigation water by late June. This condition will continue for most of the summer.

### Kootenai Basin

### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)

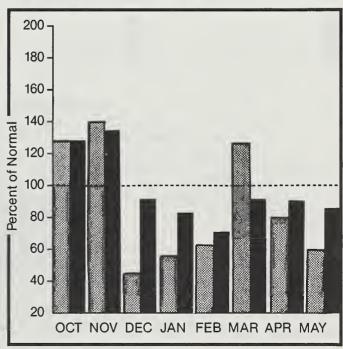


\*Kootenai in Montana

Maximum Average ———

Minimum Current

### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

### KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

The snowpack continues to decline earlier than normal and is now about 20 percent of average water content for this time of year. Cooler weather in late May has slowed the snowmelt at those sites still having snow. Precipitation in the mountains has been only about one-half of average for May. Runoff in May was a little above average on the Kootenai River. Streamflows are still forecast to be below average on all drainages with volumes expected to be a little less than the forecasted volumes issued on May 1.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

#### KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana

	RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	l I	WATERSHED SN	DWF ACK ANA	ALYSIS	
RESERVOIR	USEAELE I CAPACITYI	THIS	EABLE STOR	1	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES		
_AKE_KODCANUSA		YEAR 4553.0	YEAR 4106.0	AVG. I 1 3183.0 I	EAST KOOTENAI in B.C.	8 AAC.0		AVERAGE
	\$			i	KOOTENAI in MONTANA	17	37	21
				j	KOOTENAI ab BONNERS FERRY	24	23	15

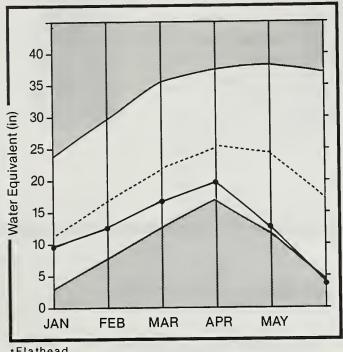
<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

### Flathead Basin

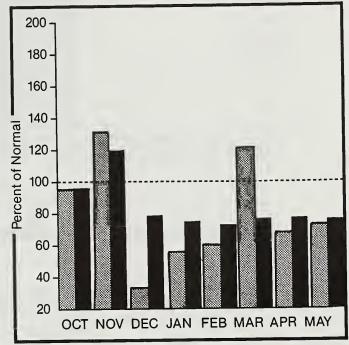
### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)



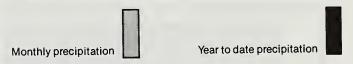
\*Flathead



### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations



### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Snowpacks are quite low due to earlier than normal melt this spring and below average mountain moisture for the winter. Currently, water content in the remaining snowpack is about 20 percent of the amount usually remaining at this time of year. Snow is better in the northern drainages than in southern areas. Streamflows are expected to be a little less than those indicated by the May 1 forecast. During May, the runoff was a little below average. Peak runoff occurred on most streams in early May. Irrigation shortages for streams not having stored water is still expected to develop by mid-June.

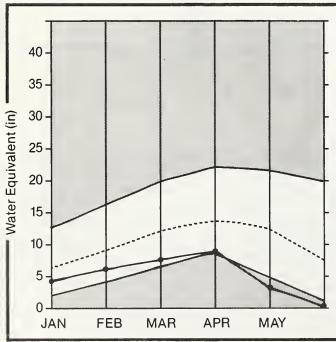
For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

RES	ERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)		I HATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS				
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I CAPACITYI	** USE THIS YEAR	EABLE STOP LAST YEAR	AGE ** I		NO. COURSES AVG'D		R AS % OF	
CAMAS (4)	45.2	31.4	37.3	31.3	NORTH FORK FLATHEAD	11	39	29	
MISSION VALLEY (8)	100.0	62.2	95.0	67.9	MIDDLE FORK FLATHEAD	5	30	20	
HUNGRY HORSE	3451.0	3264.0	2230.0	2663.0	SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD	5	18	12	
FLATHEAD LAKE	1791.0	1596.0	1568.0	1468.0	STILLHATER-WHITEFISH	5	31	16	
				į	SHAN	6	22	15	
					LITTLE BITTERROOT	2	0	٥	
					FLATHEAD	23	29	20	
				1			2.0		

 <sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.
 2 - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

### Clark Fork Basin above Missoula

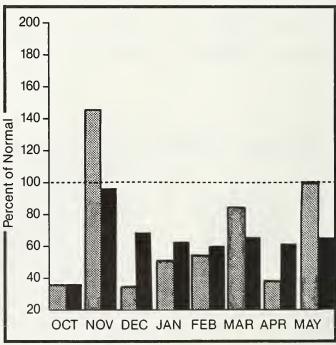
### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)



### \*Clark Fork above Missoula



### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

### CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN above Missoula

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Snow has melted from nearly all the snow measuring sites. Mountain precipitation was near average for May. Streamflows increased with the rainfall and reduced irrigation demands. However with the lack of snowmelt, the May runoff was only about one-half of average. Some streams showed increased flow near the end of May but did not reach the snowmelt peaks recorded in early May. Streamflows are expected to be near volumes forecasted on May 1. Depending on rainfall, irrigation water shortages are expected to develop as soon as temperatures warm and will probably continue through much of the summer.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

#### CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN above Missoula

	RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	l l	I WATERSHEO SNOWPACK ANALYSIS				
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I CAPACITYI	THIS	ABLE STOR	ı	WATERSHEO	NO. COURSES	THIS YEAR AS % OF		
		YEAR	YEAR	AVG. I		AVG'0	LAST YR. AVERAGE		
GEORGETORN LAKE	31.0	30.6	29.1	26.5	CLARK FORK ab BLACKFOOT	14	0 0		
LOWER WILLOW CREEK	4.9	2.4	5.0	4.5	BLACKFOOT	6	8 1		
NEVADA CREEK	12.6	6.0	12.8	11.6	CLARK FORK above MISSOULA	18	1 1		

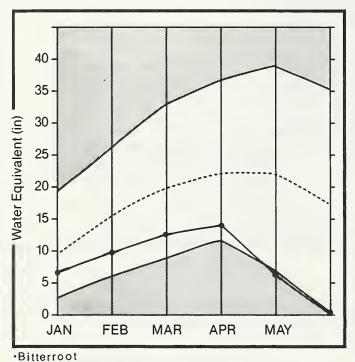
<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

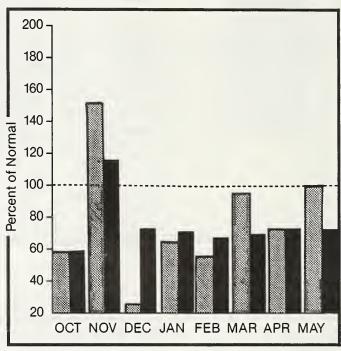
### Clark Fork Basin below Missoula







### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation

Year to date precipitation

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Snow measuring sites have very little snow remaining. During May, mountain precipitation was near average at most locations with most of it coming in the last part of the month. This has helped reduce the irrigation water demand and increase streamflows. However, runoff during May was only 50 to 60 percent of average due to the lack of snowmelt contribution. Some streamflows picked up during the recent rainfall but did not reach levels recorded during peak snowmelt runoff in early May. Streamflow forecasts are expected to be similar to those issued on May 1. Shortages of irrigation water are still anticipated to develop in the next month and continue through the summer.

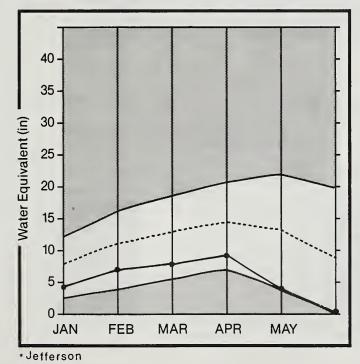
For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

F	ESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	1	WATERSHED SN	DWPACK ANA	ALYSIS		
RESERVOIR	USEARLE   CAPACITY!	THIS	LAST	:AGE **	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES			AS % OF
		YEAR	YEAR	AVG. 1		AVG'O	LASI	IK.	AVERAGI
PAINTED ROCKS LAKE	31.7	24.7		30.4	CLARK FORK above MISSOULA	18	1		1
NOXON RAPIOS	335.0	328.0	333.0	270.4	BITTERROOT	11	1		1
СОНО	34.9	31.4	35.4	28.2	LWR CLARK FK blw MISSOULA	13	14		6
					BITTERROOT & LWR C.F.	23	9		4
					CLARK FORK TOTAL	39	7		3
					FLATHEAD	23	29		20
					PENO O'REILLE	58	20		12

<sup>-</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below. - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

### Jefferson Basin

### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)

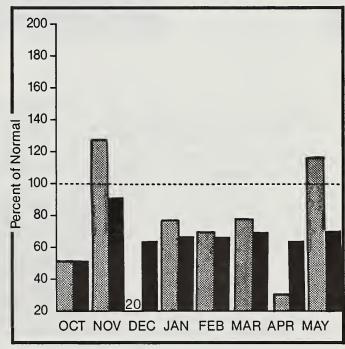


### Maximum Average

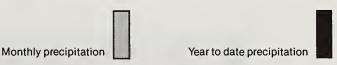
Minimum

# Current

### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations



The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

### JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Snowpacks have melted at almost all measuring sites. May was a good mountain precipitation month especially the last two weeks. Precipitation was a little above average across the basin. The southern and eastern part received more rainfall than the northwestern areas. This is the first month since November that mountain precipitation was near average. Streamflows are expected to be nearly the same or a little higher than forecasted on May 1. Runoff for May was below average due in part to the reduced snowmelt contribution. Streams registered increased flows from rains but did not have higher flows than recorded a month ago during peak snowmelt. Irrigation water shortages are still expected to be widespread by mid to late June.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

#### JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN

	RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	1	WATER	SHED SHOWFACK AND	ALYSIS	
RESERVOIR	USEABLE   CAPACITY! !	** USE THIS YEAR	EABLE STOR LAST YEAR	AGE XX I	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D		AR AS % OF
LIMA	84.0	56.6	75.2	67.0 1	EEAVERHEAD	10	4	3
CLARK CANYON	255.6	154.2	166.1	171.0	RUBY	4	2	2
RUBY RIVER	38.8	32.7	41.3	38.0	BIGHOLE	9	4	3
					E:OULDER	4	0	0
				1	JEFFERSON	20	3	2

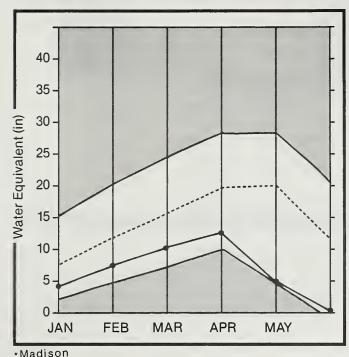
<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

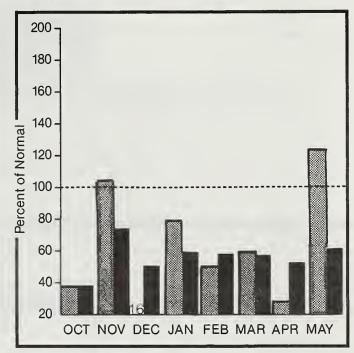
### Madison Basin

### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)





### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

#### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Some snowfall occurred near the end of May at higher elevations but very little snow remains at measuring sites. Mountain precipitation during May was above average at most sites. Most of it came in the last two weeks. This is the first month since November that precipitation has approached or exceeded average. Streamflows are expected to be about the same as or a little less than forecasted on May 1. Runoff for May was only about two-thirds of average due to the lack of snowmelt runoff. Streamflows generated by rains near the middle of May were higher than those that occurred during snowmelt runoff a month ago. Shortages of irrigation water from smaller tributaries are still expected to develop by late June.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

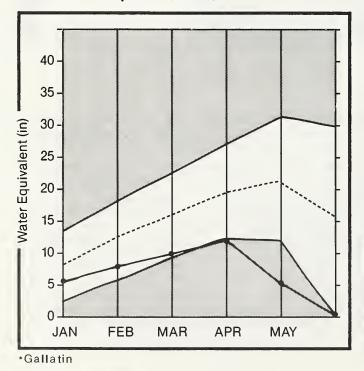
#### MADISON RIVER BASIN

	RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	1	HATERSHED	SNOWFACK AND	ALYSIS	
RESERVOIR	USEAFLE I	USEABLE   ** USEAB CAPACITY! THIS		AGE ##	HATERSHED	NO. COURSES	THIS YEA	R AS % OF
VESEKAGIK	CHI HEZTITI	YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVG.	MILIONES	AAC.D	LAST YR.	AVERAGE
ENNIS LAKE	41.0	36.0	35.7	35.7	MADISON above HERGEN	4	. 0	0
HERGEN LAKE	377.5	370.7	338,5	298.3	LOWER MADISON	6	2	1
					MADISON	10	1	1

<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

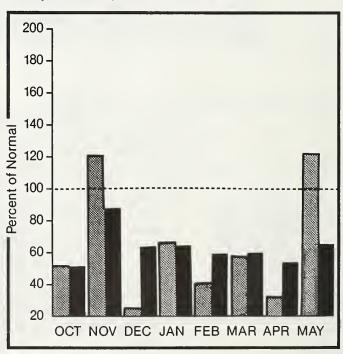
### Gallatin Basin

### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)

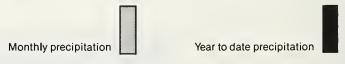


### Maximum Average Minimum Current

### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations



<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

### GALLATIN RIVER BASIN

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Even though some snowfall occurred at higher elevations near the end of May, snow at most measuring sites has melted. Mountain precipitation during May was above average with some sites reporting over 8 inches. Most of this moisture fell in the last two weeks. This is the first month since November to record good moisture. Streamflows are expected to be near the volumes forecast on May 1. The runoff for May was below average as a result of low contribution from snowmelt. Also, some streams picked up flow with the rains. However, the flows did not exceed the peak flows recorded near the first of May during the snowmelt peak. Irrigation water shortages are still expected to become widespread by mid to late June and continue through the summer.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

#### GALLATIN RIVER BASIN

	RESERVOIR STORAGE	(1000AF) I	I WATERSHED SNDWFACK ANALYSIS I				
RESERVOIR	USEABLE 1 CAPACITYI	** USEABLE STORAGE **   THIS LAST	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES	THIS YEAR AS % DF		
	i	YEAR YEAR AVG. I		AVG'D	LAST YR. AVERAGE		
MIDDLE CREEK	8.0	8.3 8.3 6.8	UPPER GALLATIN	4	1 1		
			EAST GALLATIN	7	3 2		
			GALLATIN	10	2 1		

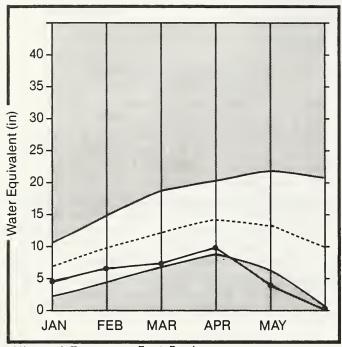
<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

### Missouri Basin

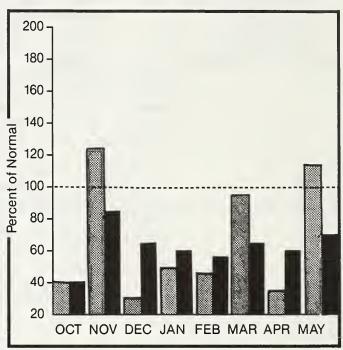
### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)



·Missouri Toston to Fort Peck



### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations



### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Nearly all the snow has melted below the elevation of 8000 feet. Mountain precipitation for May was near to above average at most stations. Most of this fell during the last two weeks. Some streams reached their highest flow of the season near the end of May. Streamflow for May was generally below average because of the small snowmelt contribution. Runoff is expected to be near volumes forecasted on May 1. On streams not having reservoir storage, irrigation water shortages are expected to be widespread by mid to late June.

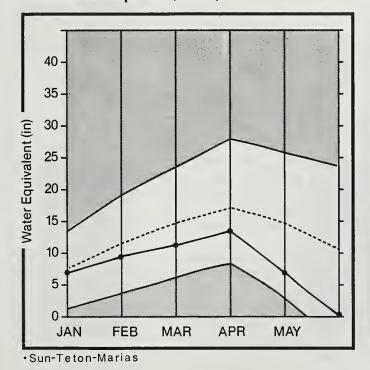
For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

	RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	1	HATERSHED SN	IOHPACK AN	ALYSIS		
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I CAPACITYI	** US			WATERSHED	NO.		YEAR	AS % OF
RESERVOER		YEAR	YEAR	AVG.	MILNOILE	AAC,0	LAST	YR.	AVERAGE
CANYON FERRY LAKE	2043.0	1608.0	1649.0	1672.0	MISSOURI HEADWATERS	34	2		2
HELENA VALLEY	9.2	6.8	5.8	7.5	WEST SIDE MISSOURI	4	٥		0
LAKE HELENA	10.4	10.7	10.9	10.0	SMITH-BELT	7	2		2
HAUSER & HELENA	61.9	62.5	63.0	60.5	MISSOURI MAINSTEM	11 .	1		1
HOLTER LAKE	81.9	81.0	79.5	74.9	SUN-TETON-MARIAS	6	2		1
SMITH RIVER	10.6	9.5	11.6	10.8	JUOITH-MUSSELSHELL	8	1		1
NEHLAN CREEK	12.4	10.6	12.3	10.6	MISSOURI above FORT PECK	51	2		1
BAIR	7.0	5.4	5.6	6.4	MILK HEADWATERS	2	Q		Q
MARTINSOALE	23.1	11.4	21.5	17.4	BEAR PAH	5	Ö		0
OEAOMAN'S BASIN	72.2	51.9	54,0	57.4	MILK RIVER	7	0		0
FORT PECK LAKE *	18.9	16.2	15.1	15.7	MISSOURI in MONTANA	57	2		1
*Million Acre Feet					HISSOURI blw YELLOHSTONE	96	4		4

<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

# Sun, Teton and Marias Basins

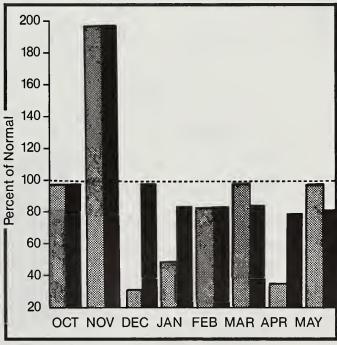
### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)



Maximum Average ———

Minimum Current

### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

### SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Very little snow remains at measuring sites. During May mountain precipitation was near average across the basin with much of it coming over the last two weeks. Streamflows increased with the rains but volume runoff for the month was below average due to the lack of snowmelt runoff. Streamflows are expected to be near or a little less than volumes forecasted on May 1. Shortages in irrigation water on streams not having stored water could develop by mid to late June and continue through the summer.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

#### SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS

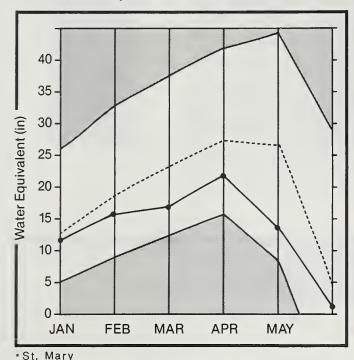
F	ESEFVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	l I	WATERSHED SNOWFACK ANALYSIS					
RESERVOIR	USEABLE   CAPACITY	THIS	EAE:LE STORAGE **   LAST		WATERSHED	NO. COURSES	THIS YE	AR AS % OF		
		YEAR	YEAR	AVG. I		AVG'O	LAST YR	. AVERAGE		
GIESON	99.1	99.0	88.88	90.2	SUN-TETON	4	0	0		
PISHKUN	32.0	31.4	29.5	29.0	MARIAS	2	2	1		
WILLOW CREEK	32.2	32+7	31.4	28+0	SUN-TETON-MARIAS	6	2	1		
LOWER TWO MEDICINE LAKE	11.9	12.5		12.4						
FOUR HORNS LAKE	19.2	13.9	Sile Sile spip.	13.2						
SHIFT	30.0	30.1	27.9	24.5						
LAKE FRANCES	112.0	104.1	105.3	85.4						
LAKE ELWELL (TIBER)	1347.0	840.1	880.9	662.6 1						

<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage. The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

### St. Mary and Milk Basins

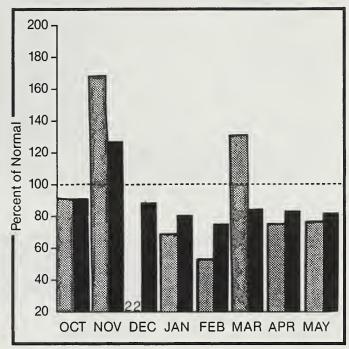
### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)



Maximum Average — — —

Minimum Current

### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

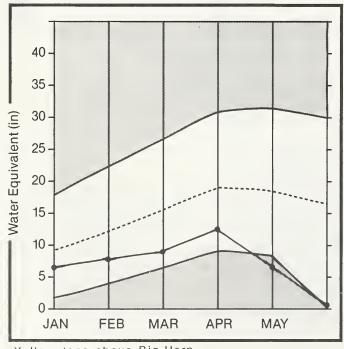
Snowpack remaining in the St. Mary's headwaters is only about 30 percent of average for this date. Precipitation for May was below average in the Bear Paw Mountains and near average in the St. Mary drainage. Runoff for May was about average in the St. Mary River basin. Streamflows are expected to be similar to volumes forecast on May 1. Runoff on the Milk River without the St. Mary Canal is still expected to be well below average.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

	RESERVOIR STORAGE	(1000AF) I			I WATERSHED SNOWFACK ANALYSIS				
RESERVOIR	USEABLE I CAPACITYI I	** USE THIS YEAR	EABLE STORI LAST YEAR	AGE ** I AVG. I	HATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D		AVERAGE	
LAKE SHEREURNE	64.3	64.6	56.8	30.3	MILK HEADWATERS	2	0	0	
FRESHO	127.0	92.4	106.1	89.4	BEAR PAN	5	0	0	
E:EAVER CREEK	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.2	MILK RIVER	7	0	0	
NELSON	66.8	\$7.2	58.4	41.7	ST. MARY	3	43	28	
					ST. MARY and MILK	8	43	27	
					BOW RIVER in ALBERTA	0	٥	0	
					OLDMAN RIVER in ALBERTA	0	٥	0	

# Yellowstone Basin

### Mountain snowpack\* (inches)

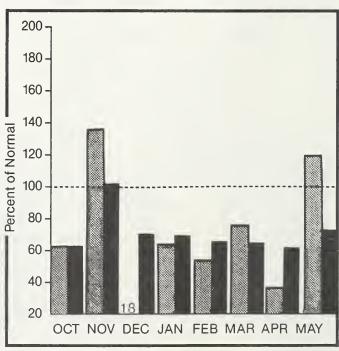


\*Yellowstone above Big Horn

Maximum Average ———

Minimum Current

### Precipitation\* (percent of normal)



\*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

#### YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN

### WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Usually there is a significant amount of snow remaining on June 1. But this year, below 9000 feet it is now almost gone. May precipitation in the mountains was above average for the first time since November. It was well above average in the Red Lodge area. Most of this moisture occurred in the last two weeks of May. Runoff for May was near average in the upper drainages and about 80 percent of average at Billings. Streamflows are expected to be near or a little above those recorded during the snowmelt peak in early May. Shortages of irrigation water supplies are expected to return again near mid to late June and continue through the summer months.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

#### YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN

	RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)	1	WATERSHED SNOWFACK ANALYSIS					
RESERVOIR	USEABLE (		EABLE STO	RAGE ** I	WATERSHED	NO.	THIS YEAR AS % O			
	1	YEAR	YEAR	AVG. I		AVG'D	LAST YR.	AVERAGE		
YSTIC LAKE	21.0	12,4	3.7	5.2	YELLOWSTONE ab LIVINGSTON	8	4	4		
COONEY	27.4	28.2	24.8	19-1	SHIELOS	6	2	1		
BIGHORN LAKE	1356.0	858.4	785.3	749.2	BOULDER-STILLWATER	3	6	5		
TONGUE RIVER	68.0	59.8	42.0	47.7	CLARK'S FORK-ROCK CREEK	12	5	6		
					YELLOWSTONE above BIGHORN	23	3	2		
					LITTLE BIGHORN	2	6	5		
				į	WIND RIVER (Myoming)	11	9	14		
					EIGHORN RIVER (Wyoming)	16	7	8		
					BIGHORN EASIN (Total)	24	10	12		
					TONGUE RIVER (Myoming)	6	4	3		
					POWDER RIVER (Wyoming)	7	٥	0		
				1	YELLOWSTONE RIVER	48	6	6		

<sup>1 -</sup> Reas. max. and reas. min. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels and also (2) below.

The average is computed for the 1961-85 base period.

<sup>2 -</sup> Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

### **Snow Data Measurements**

May 15, 1987													
SHOW COURSE	ELEVATION	OATE	SNOW OEFTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-85	SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	OATE	SNOW OEFTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERA
NTANA							NEVADA CREEK PILLOW	6480	5/15/87		٠٥	3.5	11
EAUGER PASS FILLOW	6900	5/15/87		8.0	35.1	36.9	NEZ PERCE CMP PILLO	5650	5/15/87		.0	6.1	5.
BANFIELO MTN PILLOW	5600	5/15/87		.0	9.7	13.1	NOISY EASIN PILLOW	6040	5/15/87		14.2	41.3	43.
EANFIELO MOUNTAIN	5600	5/15/87	0	.0	7.6	15.4	N.F. ELK CR FILLOW	6250	5/15/87		.0	2.6	6.
BAREE CREEK	5500	5/14/87	18	9.4	18.9	39.0	NORTH FORK JOCKO	6330	5/14/87	8	4.3	32.5	41.
BAREE MIOWAY	4600	5/14/87	6	2.6	8.3	22.5	N.E. ENTRANCE PILLO		5/15/87		.0	.0	2.
BAREE TRAIL	3800	5/14/87	0	٠٥	.0	.0	NORTHEAST ENTRANCE	7350	5/15/87	0	.0	24 5	4.
BARKER LAKES PILLOW		5/15/87		.0	20.8	15.8	FICKET PIN 0	9450	5/16/87	4	1.5	24.5	28
BASIN CREEK PILLOW	7180	5/15/87		• 0	11.9	9.6	PICKFOOT CRK PILLOW PIKE CREEK PILLOW	6650 5930	5/15/87 5/15/87		•0	2.0	3.
BEAGLE SPGS FILLOW BEAR PAW SKI AREA	8850	5/15/87 5/12/87		•0	14.1	4.9	PLACER EASIN F	8830	5/10/87	3	.0 1.0	16.6	20
BEAVER CREEK FILLOW	5200 7850	5/15/87		.0	2.0	21.7	PLACER BASIN FILLOW	8830	5/15/87		5.5	20.9	20
BLACK BEAR FILLOW	7950	5/15/87		•3	49.1	35.9	FOORMAN CRK PILLON	5100	5/15/87		.0	11.1	22
BLACK PINE PILLOW	7100	5/15/87		•0	8.5	10.8	FOORMAN CREEK	5100	5/15/87	0	•0	13.4	23
BLACK PINE	7100	5/15/87	0	.0		10.1	PORCUPINE PILLOW	6500	5/15/87		•0	.0	
BLOODY DICK FILLOW	7550	5/15/87		•0	11.2	6.4	REO MOUNTAIN	6000	5/13/87	0	.0	6.4	14
E:OTS SOTS	7750	5/15/87	0	.0	2.2	7.5	ROCKER PEAK PILLOW	8000	5/15/87		2.9	21.3	18
BOULOER MIN FILLOW	7950	5/15/87		.0	23.4	21.0	ROCKY BOY	4700	5/12/87	0	.0	.8	
BOX CANYON FILLOW	6700	5/15/87		.0	.0	1.5	ROCKY BOY FILLOW	4700	5/12/87	0	.0	٠8	1
E:OXELOER CREEK	5100	5/12/87	0	.0	1.5		SADOLE MTN FILLOW	7900	5/15/87		.0	27 • 1	26
BRIOGER BOWL PILLOW	_	5/14/87		.0	20.5	26.7	SHOWER FALLS PILLOW	8100	5/15/87		3.2	29.4	29
BRIOGER BOWL	7250	5/14/87	0	.0	20.6	28.7	SILVER RUN	6630	5/15/87	0	.0	.0	2
CALVERT CREEK PILLO		5/15/87		.0	.0	+1	SILVER RUN FILLOW	6630	5/15/87		.0	.0	
CAMP SENIA	7890	5/15/87	0	.0	4.6	9.4	SKALKAHO PILLOW	7260	5/15/87		2.1	27.4	24
CARROT EASIN FILLOW	9000	5/15/87		3.0	37.3	31.9	SKYLARK TRAIL PILLO		5/15/87		.0	23.3	29
CASHE CREEK FILLOW	7800	5/15/87		.0	9.5	8.1	S.F. SHIELOS FILLOW	8100	5/15/87		.0	19.6	20
CLOVER MEADOW PILLO	M 8800	5/15/87		.0	23.1	17.4	SPUR PARK PILLOW	8100	5/15/87		٠5	27.6	22
COLE CREEK PILLOW	7850	5/15/87		2.0	24.2	20.2	STAHL PEAK	6030	5/15/87	48	25 - 1	33.7	39
COMBINATION	5600	5/15/87	0	• 0		1.3	STAHL PEAK PILLOW	6030	5/15/87		27.1	35.5	39
COMEINATION PILLOW	5600	5/15/87		.0	.0	•5	STAR LAKE E	9650	5/10/87	28	12.5	46.0	49
COPPER BOTTOM PILLO	H 5200	5/15/87		.0	.0	1.4	SUCKER CREEK	3960	5/12/87	0	• 0	٠0	
COPPER CAMP PILLOW	6950	5/15/87		.0	23.1	28.1	TAYLOR ROAD	4080	5/12/87	0	٠0	.0	
COFFER MOUNTAIN	7700	5/12/87	0	.0	7.6	8.6	TEPEE CREEK FILLOW	8000 8850	5/15/87		• 0	16.8	12
CRYSTAL LAKE FILLOW		5/15/87		•0	5.1	8.7	TIMBERLINE CREEK THELVEMILE PILLOM	5600	5/15/87	0	.0	18.0	18
DALY CREEK FILLOW	5780	5/15/87		.0	•1	2.3	THIN LAKES PILLOW	6400	5/15/87		•0 8•4	32.2	20
OARKHORSE LK. PILLO		5/15/67		5.2	33.9	28.2	WALORON PILLOW	5600	5/15/87 5/15/87		.0	.0	38
DEADMAN CREEK PILLO		5/15/87		• 0	•0	2.8	WARM SPRINGS FILLOW	780 <b>0</b>	5/15/87		4.8	28.6	31
DISCOVERY BASIN	7050	5/15/87	0	•0	8.2	8.8	WEASEL DIVIDE	5450	5/15/87	20	9.9	16.8	30
OIVIOE PILLOW	7800	5/15/87		.0	14.8	8.7	HEST YELL'ST FILLOW	6700	5/15/87		.0	.0	1
OUPUYER CREEK PILLO		5/15/87		.0	•1	1.0	HEST YELLOHSTONE	6700	5/15/87	0	•0		
EAST BOULDER S	9250	5/10/87	12	5.0	32.0	33.1	WHISKEY CREEK FILLO		5/15/87		.0	18.4	10
EMERY CREEK PILLOW	4350	5/15/87		.0	.0	1.6	WHITE MILL PILLOW	8700	5/15/87		2.0	31.4	2.
FISHER CREEK FILLOW		5/15/87		7.6	41.8	38.8	HOOO CREEK PILLOH	5960	5/15/87		.0	4.6	-
FLATTOP MTN PILLOW	6300	5/15/87		25.4	40.3	46.7	NOOD ONLEN 12220N	5700	0, 10, 0,		••	440	
FROHNER MOWS PILLOW		5/15/87		.0	5.7	6.3							
GARVER CREEK PILLOW		5/15/87		٠0	.0	•2							
CARVER CREEK	4250	5/15/87	0	•0	.0	.3							
GIEBONS PASS	7100	5/15/87	0	• 0	17.7	18.9							
GRAVE CREEK	4300 4300	5/15/87 5/15/87		• 0	.0	2.6							
HANO CREEK FILLOW	5030	5/15/87	0	.0	2.9	7.1 3.4							
HAWKINS LAKE PILLOW		5/15/87		8.8		28.4							
HAWKINS LAKE	6450	5/15/87	17	8.2	31.0 27.1	29.4							
HEART LAKE TRAIL	4800	5/16/87	0	.0	6.0	10.7							
HELL ROARING DIVIDE		5/14/87	17	7.6	20.0	24.8							
HOOOOO BASIN FILLOW		5/15/87		17.0	39.3	44.0							
HOODOO EASIN	6050	5/16/87	26	15.0	44.5	48.7							
HOODOO CREEK	5900	5/16/87	24	12.7	36.0	45.1							
INTERGAARO	6450	5/12/87		.0	6.3	5.8							
KINGS HILL	7500	5/13/87		.0	15.5	14.7							
KIWANIS CAMP	3720	5/12/87	0	.0	.0	14.7							
KRAFT CREEK BILLON	4750	5/15/97		0	.0	1.4							

KRAFT CREEK FILLOW

LEMHI RIOGE PILLOW

LICK CREEK FILLOW

LOWER THIN PILLOW

MANY GLACIER FILLOW

MAYNARO CREEK PILLOW

MONUMENT FEAK FILLOW

MOSS PEAK FILLOW

MT LOCKHART PILLOW

MULE CREEK PILLOW

LUBRECHT PILLOW

MAYNARO CREEK

LAKEVIEW ROG. PILLOW

5/15/87 ---5/15/87 ---

5/15/87 ---5/15/87 ---

5/15/87

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5/15/87

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27.6

43.4

19.7

10.5

1.4

5.1

8.1

4.9

22.3

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1.1

12.0

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44.3

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4750

7400

8100

6860

7900

4680

4900

6210

6210

8850

6780

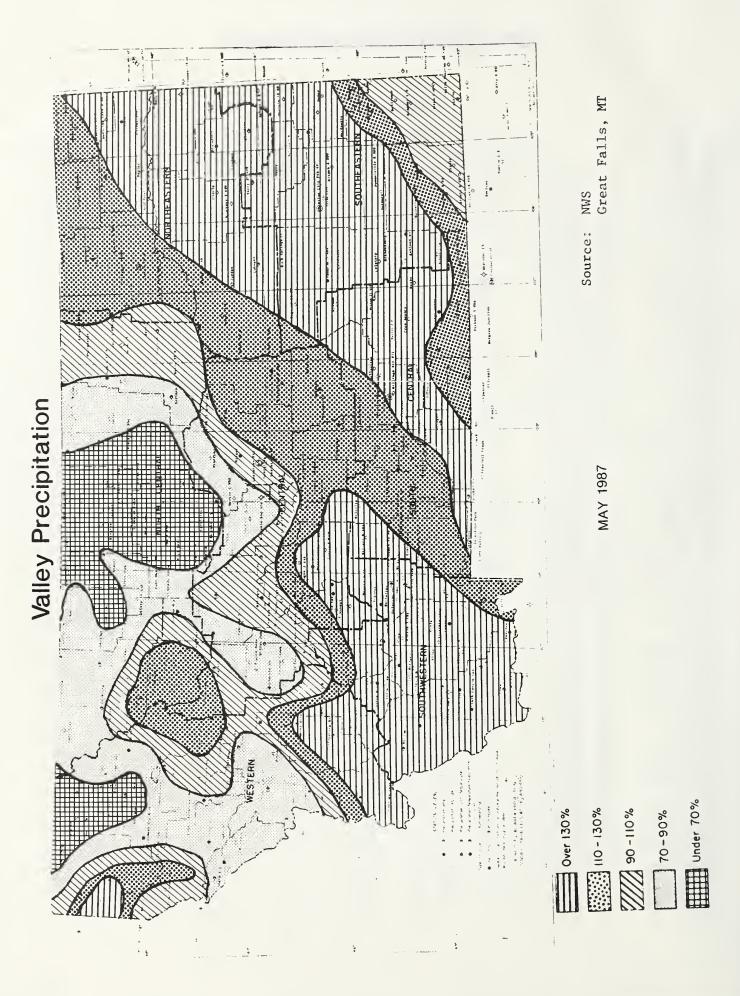
6400

8300

## **Snow Data Measurements**

June 1, 1987

						Julio	•, •							
SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW OEPTH	HATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-85		SNOW COURSE E	LEVATION	DATE	SNON OEPTH	HATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-85
MONTANA								NEVAOA CREEK PILLOW	6480	6/01/87		•0	.0	6.5
MONTANA BAUGER PASS FILLOW	6900	6/01/87		.4	16.3	22.8		NEZ PERCE CMP PILLOW	5650	6/01/87		.0	.0	.3
BANFIELO MTN PILLOW	5600	5/30/87		.0	.0	3.3		NEZ PERCE CAMP	5650	5/30/87	0	.0	.0	
EANFIELD MOUNTAIN	5600	5/30/87	0	.0	.0 9.3	6.2 10.1		NEZ PERCE CREEK	6600	5/30/87	0	.0	24.2	40.0
BARKER LAKES PILLOW BASIN CREEK PILLOW	8250 7180	6/01/87 6/01/87		.3	4.3	6.0		NOISY EASIN NOISY BASIN PILLON	6040 6040	5/30/87 6/01/87	17	8.8 3.3	34.3 29.0	43.2 31.4
BEAGLE SPGS PILLOW	8850	6/01/87		.0	.0	1.1		N.F. ELK CR PILLON	6250	6/01/87		.0	.0	3.5
BEAR PAW SKI AREA	5200	5/28/87	0	.0	.0	1.0		N.F. ELK CREEK	6250	6/02/87	0	.0		2.4
BEAVER CREEK PILLOW		6/01/87		0	13.1 37.4	18.1 43.7		NORTH FORK JOCKO	6330	5/28/87	1	.7	8.6	28.4
BIG CREEK BLACK BEAR PILLOW	6750 7950	5/29/87 6/01/87	22	11.3	37.5	26.1		N.E. ENTRANCE FILLOW NORTHEAST ENTRANCE	7350 7350	6/01/87	0	.0	.0	.0 .5
BLACK PINE FILLOW	7100	6/01/87		•0	.0	3.4		PETERSON MON PILLON	7200	6/03/87		.0		4.3
BLACK PINE	7100	5/27/87	0	•0	٠0	3.9		PETERSON MEADONS	7200	6/03/87	0	•0		1.3
BLOODY DICK PILLOW	7550	6/01/87		.0 .5	.0	1.0		PICKFOOT CRK PILLOW	6650	6/01/87		.0	.0	•0
BOULOER MTN PILLOW BOX CANYON PILLOW	7950 6700	6/01/87 6/01/87		.0	8.8	.0		PIKE CREEK PILLOW	5930 5930	5/26/87 6/01/87		.0	.0	12.6
BOXELOER CREEK	5100	5/28/87	0	.0	.0			PLACER BASIN FILLOW	8830	6/01/87		1.7	14.1	16.2
ERIDGER BOWL FILLOW		6/01/87		-1	10.6	17.4		FOORMAN CRK FILLON	5100	5/30/87		.0	.0	12.0
BRIOGER BOWL	7250 6430	6/01/87	3	.4	13.0	21.0		POORMAN CREEK	5100 6500	5/30/87		•0	•0	10.2
CALVERT OR PILLOW CARROT BASIN PILLOW		6/01/87 6/01/87		.2	27.4	26.6		PORCUPINE PILLON REO MOUNTAIN	6000	6/01/87	0	.0	.0	4.7
CASHE CPEEK PILLOW	7800	6/01/87		•2	.0	4.2		ROCKER PEAK	8000	5/28/87	0	.0	6.3	9.1
CHICKEN CREEK	4060	5/26/87	0	.0		.0		ROCKER PEAK PILLON	8000	6/01/87		•0	11.3	14.4
CLOVER MOW FILLOW	8800	6/01/87 5/28/87		.0	14.2 15.4	11.1 19.6		ROCKY BOY	4700	5/28/87	0	.0	•0	.4
COLE CREEK PILLON	7850 7850	6/01/87		.0	13.2	14.3		ROCKY BOY PILLOW SADOLE MTN PILLOW	4700 7900	5/28/87		.0	.0 14.8	.3 19.8
COMEINATION	5600	5/27/87	0	•0	.0	.3		SHOWER FALLS PILLOW	8100	6/01/87		.4	17.9	23.7
COMBINATION FILLOW	5600	6/01/87		•0	•0	.0		SILVER RUN	6630	5/28/87	0	.0	.0	• 9
COPPER BOTTOM PILLO COPPER CAMP PILLON	)H 5200 6950	6/01/87 6/01/87		.0	.0	13.7		SILVER RUN PILLON	6630	6/01/87		•0	15.0	.0
CRYSTAL LAKE PILLOW		6/01/87		.0	.0	1.0		SKALKAHO PILLOW SKALKAHO SUMMIT	7260 7250	6/01/87 5/28/87	0	.0	15.8 8.7	16.2 15.6
OALY CREEK	5780	5/28/87	0	.0				SKYLARK TRAIL PILLOW	6200	6/01/87		.0	1.7	16.5
OALY CREEK PILLOW	5780	6/01/87		.0	.0	.0		S.F. SHIELOS PILLOW	8100	6/01/87		.0	8.7	15.6
OARKHORSE LK. PILLO OEAOMAN CR PILLOW	0H 8700 6450	6/01/87 6/01/87		1.9	24.4	24.4		SPUR PARK PILLOW SPUR PARK	8100 8100	6/01/87	1	.3	16.6	16.5
DEADMAN CREEK	6450	5/27/87	0	.0	.0	.4		STAHL PEAK	6030	5/27/87 5/30/87	23	.2 12.7	32.8	17.5 32.5
DISCOVERY BASIN	7050	5/27/87	0	.0		5.7		STAHL PEAK PILLON	6030	6/01/87		16.0	25.2	29.9
OIVIDE PILLOW	7800	6/01/87		.0	2.0	1.9		STRYKER BASIN	6180	5/26/87	10	5.7	17.9	21.1
OUPUYER CREEK PILLO EMERY CREEK	0W 5750 4350	6/01/87 5/30/87		.0	.0	.0		SUCKER CREEK TAYLOR ROAD	3960 4080	5/28/87 5/28/87	0	.0	.0	•2 •5
EMERY CREEK PILLOW	4350	6/01/87		.0	.0	.0		TEPEE CREEK PILLOW	8000	6/01/87		.0	5.5	5.6
FISHER CREEK PILLO	9100	6/01/87		. 4	33.5	33.3		THELVEHILE PILLON	5600	6/01/87		.0	.0	•6
FLATTOF MTN FILLOW	6300	6/01/87		14.4	33.5	38.7		THIN LAKES PILLON	6400	6/01/87		٠3	18.2	28+6
FROHNER MOWS PILLOW GARVER CPEEK PILLOW		6/01/87 5/30/87		•0	.0	1.8		WALORON PILLOW WARM SPRINGS	5600 7800	6/01/87 6/02/87		.0	.0	12.7
GARVER CFEEK	4250	5/30/87		.0	.0	.0		HARM SPRINGS PILLON	7800	6/01/87		.0	20.0	25.7
GIBBONS FASS	7100	6/02/87		.0	•2	9.8		WEASEL DIVIDE	5450	5/30/87	0	.0	10.2	19.3
GRAVE CRK PILLON	4300	6/01/87		.0	•0	.0		WEST YELL'ST PILLOW	6700	6/02/87		.0	.0	•0
GRAVE CREEK HANO CREEK	4300 5030	5/30/87 5/28/87		.0	.0	1.4		WEST YELLOWSTONE WHISKEY CREEK PILLOW	6700 6800	6/02/87 6/01/87		.0	1.0	1.2
HAND CREEK FILLOW	5030	6/01/87		.0	.0	.0		HHITE MILL PILLOH	8700	6/01/87		.0	23.8	19.9
HAWKINS LAKE PILLO	4 6450	5/30/87		.0	15.8	20.4		HOOO CREEK PILLOW	5960	6/01/87		.0	•0	•0
HANKINS LAKE	6450	5/30/87		.0	20.2	20.6								
HEART LAKE TRAIL HELL ROARING DIVIDE	4800 E 5770	5/31/87 5/28/87		.0	.0	2.7 12.7								
HERRIG JUNCTION	4850	5/26/87		.0	.0	2.3								
HOOOOO BASIN PILLO		6/01/87		6.5	19.9	30.7								
HOODOO BASIN	6050	5/31/87		4.5	17.2	35.0								
HOOOOO CREEK KINGS HILL	5900 7500	5/31/87 5/27/87		2.8	15.8 10.0	34.7 9.7								
KIHANIS CAMP	3720	5/28/87		.0	.0									
KRAFT CREEK PILLOW		6/01/87		.0	.0	•0								
LAKEVIEW ROG. PILLO		6/01/87		•3	.0	.0								
LEMHI RIDGE PILLOW LICK CREEK PILLOW	8100 6860	6/01/87 6/01/87		.0	.0	4.2 .5								
LICK CREEK	6860	6/01/87		.3	.0	1.3								
LOWER THIN FILLOW	7900	6/01/87		•8	13.6									
LUBRECHT FLUME	4680	6/02/87		.0										
LUERECHT PILLON MANY GLACIER	4680 4900	6/01/87		.0	.0	.0								
MANY GLACIER PILLO		6/01/87		.0	.0	.0								
MAYNARO CREEK	6210	6/01/87	7 0	٠٥	.0	3.9								
MAYNARD CR FILLOW	6210	6/01/8		.0	.0									
MONUMENT PK PILLOW MOSS PEAK		6/01/87		10.4	16.6 29.8									
MOSS FEAK PILLOW	6780 6780	5/29/87 6/01/87		10.6 4.8	31.1									
HT LOCKHART PILLOW		6/01/8		.0	4.9									
MULE CREEK FILLOW	8300	6/01/8	7	.0	.0	11.3								



### The Following Organizations Cooperate With The Soil Conservation Service In Snow Survey Work

Canadian

Department of the Environment

Atmospheric Environment Service Water Management Service

British Columbia Ministry of Environment

Inventory and Engineering Branch, Hydrology Section

Alberta Environment

**Technical Services Division** 

Federal

U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service** 

U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Department of Commerce

NOAA, National Weather Service

National Environmental Satellite Service

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs

Fish and Wildlife Service

Geological Survey

National Park Service Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

State

Montana Conservation Districts

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Montana Department of State Lands

Montana State University - Agricultural Experiment Station

University of Montana - School of Forestry

**Private** 

Big Sky of Montana

**Butte Water Company** 

Confererated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Flathead Valley Comminity College

Montana Power Company

Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Company

Other organizations and individuals furnish information for the snow survey reports.

Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE SNOW SURVEY UNIT

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